

War-Office, November 14, 1776. To the Associators of Pennsylvania

WAR-OFFICE, *November 14th, 1776.*

TO THE ASSOCIATORS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GENTLEMEN, CONGRESS have received Intelligence that a Fleet of the Enemy, consisting of several hundred Sail, were yesterday discovered near Sandy-Hook, steering to the Southward. It is highly probable that their Destination is for Delaware and the City of Philadelphia. It is needless to observe that the utmost Vigour and Dispatch are necessary to counteract the Designs of the Enemy, and defend this City, the Preservation of which is of very great Importance to the general Cause. Congress have directed us to co-operate with the Council of Safety of this State in concerting Measures proper on the present Emergency; and have invested us with their full Power to carry such Measures into Execution. In Discharge of the Trust committed to us, we think it our Duty to recommend it to you, in the warmest and most earnest Manner, immediately to put yourselves in Array, and march, by Companies and Parts of Companies as you can be ready, with the utmost Expedition to this City. Its Safety and the Interest of the United States point out the Necessity of your strongest Exertions.

General WASHINGTON, at the Head of a considerable Part of his Army, is advancing Southward; but, notwithstanding all the Dispatch he can possibly make, the Enemy may arrive before him. If they shall be opposed, with proper Spirit and sufficient Numbers, at their first Approach, there is the greatest Reason to expect that their Views will finally be defeated; and they will experience, to their Cost and Disgrace, that on no Part of the Continent they can make an Impression. They have been already obliged to abandon Crown-Point, and retire into Canada.

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It is vain to hope for Lenity from your inveterate Foes. Their tender Mercies are Cruelty. The property of those who have acted as their Friends, is not safer than that of those whom they consider as their Enemies. Devastation of every Kind marks their Footsteps.

Congress will do everything in their Power to strengthen you. Expresses for this Purpose are already sent off to the neighbouring States.

Every Thing dear to Freemen is now at Stake. The Freemen of Pennsylvania will undoubtedly discover the Spirit and Zeal, which their Country expects and their critical Situation demands. **BENJAMIN HARRISON. JAMES WILSON. EDWARD RUDLEDGE. FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.** *Attest.* **RICHARD PETERS**, Secretary.

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